



# MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

## Legislative Fiscal Division

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Legislative Fiscal Analyst  
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DATE: December 4, 2003

TO: Legislative Finance Committee

FROM: Taryn Purdy

RE: District Courts Statewide Assumption: Project Fiscal Update

The 2003 legislative session marked the first session in which Judiciary budgets were established after district court assumption. The legislature faced many challenges in this task, including:

- 1) Lack of consistent history of expenditures in the district courts for establishing and predicting future costs.
- 2) Delays in receipt and payment of reimbursements for tracking and predicting expenditures.
- 3) Methods to control variable court costs (such as public defender and costs resulting from the volume, content, and seriousness of individual cases heard) and efficiently provide services.

The Judiciary has been asked to provide an update to the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) on efforts currently underway to address these and other issues. In future LFC meetings, LFD staff will provide updates on progress and issues.